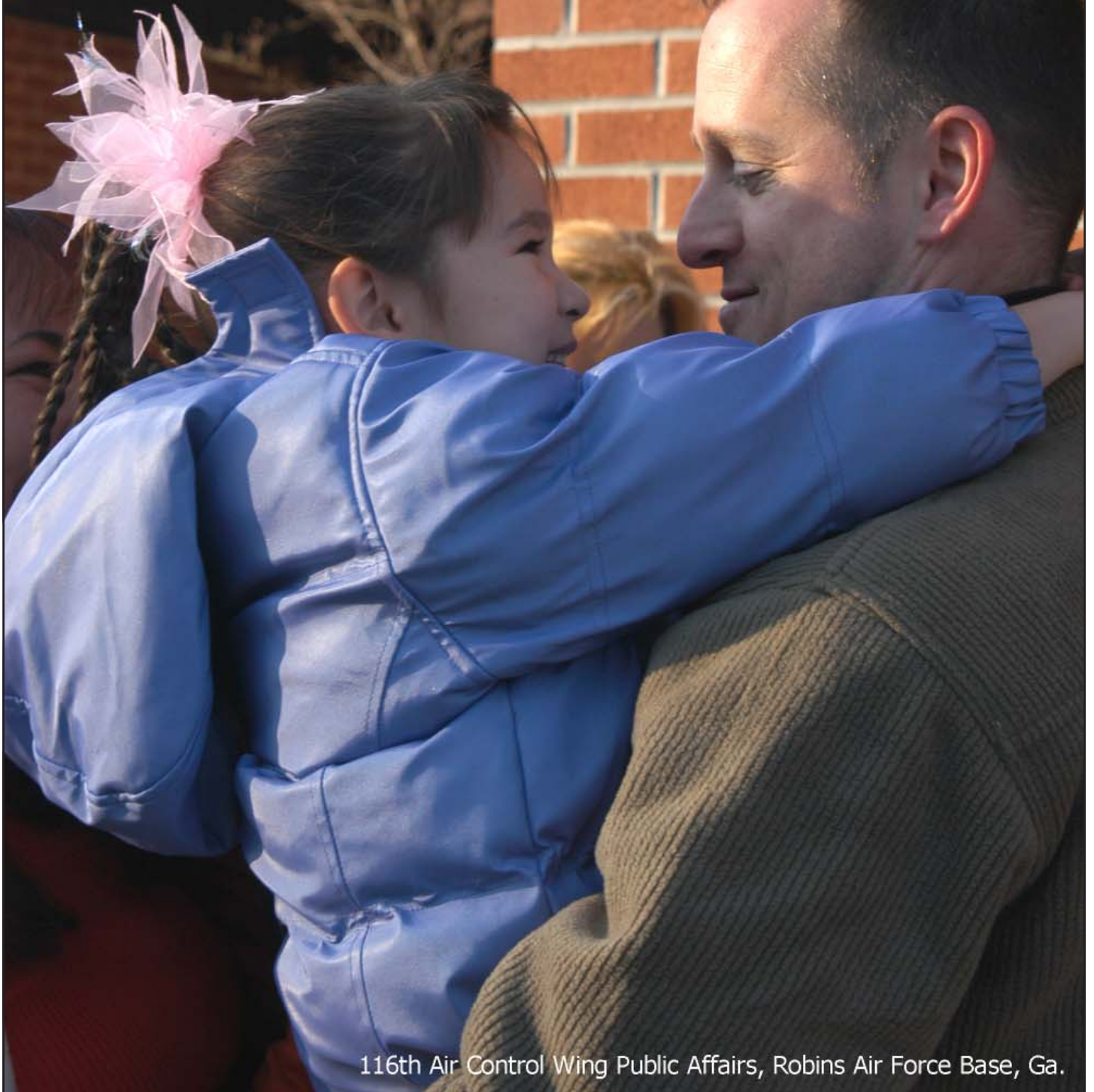


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EYE in the Sky



116th Air Control Wing Public Affairs, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

EYE in the Sky

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on the cover



Lt. Col. Henry Cyr, 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, hugs his daughter Alexandria in front of Coats Hall here Feb. 4, after returning home from a deployment to Southwest Asia. About 170 wing members returned home after a 45-90 day tour.

(Photo by Airman Paul R. Ross)



Courtesy photo

Capt. Steven Givler stands in front of the Iraqi flag while deployed to Southwest Asia. Captain Givler returned home Feb. 4, with about 170 other JSTARS members.

All I want for Christmas

(Editor's note: Capt. Steven Givler, a member of the 116th Air Control Wing, wrote to friends and family about his experiences on a daily basis while deployed. He is sharing these letters so people can see what it's like in a deployed location. This is the second of a three part series. Captain Givler returned home Feb. 4.)

Last night I walked the nearly two miles from the compound where I work to our squadron. I could have signed out a truck and driven there, but it was a beautiful night and the walk provided an opportunity for some solitude. The waxing moon outshined all but the brightest stars, and cast its light across a far-flung layer of thin, high cloud. My walk carried me past a large spherical antenna shelter. The moonlight gleamed on the top and faded down the curving sides. In the darkness, the shelter seemed to be a planet, reflecting the light of its small silver sun.

I had a cigar in my pocket, and paused a moment to light it. Then, marked by its glowing orange tip and a wreath of silver smoke, I left the road, cutting across a broad, dark patch of desert. Had I not walked this route before in daylight, I wouldn't have done it last night in the dark. Concertina wire, which is the tinsel of deployed bases, is invisible in the dark, and once wandered into, is difficult to get out of without leaving something precious behind.

Absent razor wire though, the desert is a beautiful place at night. Having no particular schedule to keep, I sat for a bit on a rock, accompanied only by the darkness, the silence, and a tiny desert fox that flirted

with the limits of my peripheral vision. On a night like this, not far from here and not particularly long ago, shepherds keeping watch over their flocks were amazed by the sight of a heavenly host. Angels shouted, trumpets sounded, and the word went out. The world is changed forever.

On the distant end of a momentarily forgotten runway, a pair of fighters lit their afterburners. They shattered the silence and leaped into the sky, trailing 20-foot cones of pink flame. No angels for me this night (none that I can see) but I am no less aware of Christmas for the lack of them. This night, this place, my circumstances - as foreign and as far removed as they are from the Christmases I have known, they are somehow appropriate. Christmas exists outside the presents, the trees, and even the company of my family.

Normally I can't decide what I want for Christmas, but this year I know exactly. To read again to my children. To say their prayers and put them to bed. To spend a quiet evening with my wife and, when the evening is over, to peer into our little ones' darkened rooms and listen to the softness of their breathing. I will have those things. It will take a little while, but don't feel bad about that. As with many things, the waiting will make the realization that much better.

Merry Christmas,
Steven

Combat lessons every Airman should know before deploying

by Staff Sgt. **Lee Watts**
20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. (AFPN) — There I was, deployed in the war on terrorism, when I found myself under attack, again!

I am not a pilot or a security forces troop. I do most of my work in an office. But while in Iraq, I had to repeatedly face enemy fire nonetheless.

If you are in the military, you can expect to deploy. It's what we train for. Whether you work in an office, on the flightline or have some other job, training with a warrior's mindset here at home can keep you alive when you are under attack.

When you literally see the rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air, there is no time to think. Your training, or lack thereof, will take over.

During exercises, do you ever grumble about having to wear the helmet or flak vest for hours? Are you one of those Airmen who takes it off when no one's looking? Yes, it is uncomfortable; but let me stress why we all need to train the way we fight. A few weeks ago I was in Baghdad and was headed to the gym, which was a short walk from the trailers where we slept. I will admit, it looks ridiculous wearing a t-shirt, running shorts and sneakers with body armor and a helmet. But while outdoors, orders were to always wear your protective gear.

It was a quiet night, but halfway there, four rockets broke the silence. They came without warning; no alarms sounded until after the explosions began. That night, I chose to put on the uncomfortable armor. A guy 50 yards to my right did not. Today, I am safely home with my family; he is not. His family must now go on without him. Orders are for a reason. Following them saved my life, and not following them cost another man his.

Train the way you fight! We are all given orders to go to training. The military provides the training, but your mindset determines its effectiveness. Have you trained for war or just checked a box? Whether it be self-aid and buddy care, chemical warfare or small arms, treat your training as if your life depends on it. It may.

Right now, if the bullets started flying,

could you quickly clear a jam in your weapon and get it operational again? This "office" Airman had to do that. Could you treat someone going into shock? When car-bomb shock waves hit my building, that scenario became real.

During a Phase II exercise, when you're showing new Airmen how to do unexploded-ordnance sweeps, are you showing them exactly the way you want them to check around your tent when it really counts? There were more than 100 sweeps in the short time I was there.

During attacks, your training will take over, and so will the training you have provided to others. When mortars begin to fall, it is too late to prepare. Whatever

preparations you make now will be all you have then.

In Baghdad, it was obvious who was fit to fight both physically and mentally. They had trained with a warrior mindset and came to the fight combat-ready.

In this war, fear is the enemy's greatest weapon. The terrorists want us to be afraid: afraid to fly, afraid to visit our own monuments, afraid the costs will be too high to see this fight through to the end. The way to defeat our enemy is clear. In the fight against terrorism, Thomas Paine once said, "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."



Courtesy photo

Family tradition

Chris Jackson, an Air National Guard network administrator with the 116th Communications Squadron, comes from a long line of family members who have answered their country's call to serve. Here he hugs his mother after the wing promotion ceremony Feb. 1. His mother, retired ANG Lt. Col. Sandra Curran, and father, Air Force Col. Dean Jackson, both participated in the promotion ceremony when Jackson pinned on staff sergeant.



Staff Sgt. Christopher Richmond, special purpose mechanic, installs an air conditioning compressor bracket Feb. 16.

Mechanics

make engines run,
get crews to aircraft

Story and photos by Airman **Paul R. Ross**
116th ACW Public Affairs

It's a cold January morning and the Georgia sky is still dark. There is fog rising from the flight line. It resembles a concrete desert. The crew of the JSTARS aircraft is on a mission. But before this desert is turned into a launch pad of military activity, there is a lot to be done.

For example: On a cold morning there is usually ice formed on the aircraft that must be removed, the crew has to get out to

the aircraft and the plane has to be towed to the right position for take off. That's where the 116th Vehicle Management Flight steps in.

"The 116th VMF services all critical vehicles that get the planes off the ground," said 1st Lt. Wesley Maxwell, VMF Commander.

There are quite a few different vehicles that come into play when a JSTARS has to complete a mission.

In the shop, there are eight full-time workers and eight traditional guardsmen, who maintain more than 160 vehicles for the 116th. Each vehicle is inspected thoroughly every six months. They administer standard maintenance when needed, such as oil changes and others general upkeep procedures, said Lieutenant Maxwell.

The VMF's duties do not always take place on the flight line or in the shop. They help out all over base when needed. They provide drivers for operational readiness exercises and help support the 78th Air Base Wing and 19th Air Refueling Group.

"We provide transportation when a distinguished visitor

See **MECHANICS**, page 5



Tech. Sgt. Rowland McInturff, inspects a generator used to power the air conditioning units.

From **MECHANICS**, page 4

comes to Robins, like when Dan Clark (a contributing author of the “Chicken Soup for the Soul” books) gave the 116th an inspirational speech,” said 1st Lt. Jay Elliott, VMF Deputy Flight Commander.

The VMF, like any other shop has their share of challenges.

“About three years ago, we had trouble with the air conditioning units in our bread trucks. They would sit on the flight line all day in the summer heat and have to come in for air conditioner repairs every couple of weeks. We sought outside contractors to develop a way to fix the problem, but they couldn’t figure out a

solution. That’s when one of our mechanics did, said Lieutenant. Maxwell.

Tech. Sgt. Rowland McInturff, special purpose mechanic, developed a way to use a generator and separate fuel tank hooked up to an air conditioning unit, the same kind found in most mobile homes, to solve the problem.

“The first vehicle we installed it on hasn’t been in the shop for air conditioning repairs since, that was three years ago,” said Sergeant McInturff

This is just one example of initiative and ingenuity that helps strengthen the chain that is the 116th.



Staff Sgt. Christopher Richmond, special purpose mechanic, inspects a breaker box for an air conditioning system.

Watching each

JSTARS duo reaches troops on the ground

by Tech. Sgt. **Mike Dorsey**
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

One is active duty straight out of technical training; the other served on active duty and is now in the Air National Guard. One is male, the other is female.

Yet despite their differences on the surface, Tech. Sgt. Thomas Bloomberg and Airman 1st Class Emily Leece, could not be any closer.

"We definitely watch each other's back," Airman Leece said.

As airborne operations technicians aboard the Joint STARS aircraft, Sergeant Bloomberg and Airman Leece play a large role on the aircraft's long-range, air-to-ground mission.

A customized jet liner with modified electronics systems, the E-8C is a battle management platform with a primary mission of providing theater ground and air commanders with ground surveillance to support attack operations and targeting of enemy forces, officials said.

The aircraft's 24-foot antenna has a field view of more than 19,000 square miles and can detect targets as far out as 820,000 feet. With its radar and computer technology, Sergeant Bloomberg and Airman Leece help provide theater commanders with data from more than five miles above ground.

"Surveillance is a major part of our mission, and it begins with the air operations technicians," said Sergeant Bloomberg, who is part of a team that locates troop and vehicle movements on the ground during convoy

missions in Iraq. "During our mission, we directly support ground forces through communications."

To become airborne operations technicians, Sergeant Bloomberg and Airman Leece each went through a year of technical and survival training. Both have flown numerous missions that require mental and physical stamina needed to endure the long hours in each sortie. They even sit next to each other on the aircraft, each sharing reasons why they chose such a demanding job.

"When the Air National Guard came on board with the (Joint STARS) program, I had an opportunity to retrain," said Sergeant Bloomberg, who spent eight years on active duty as a weapons loader for F-15 Eagles and B-1B Lancers. "I liked the idea of being directly involved with the fight on the ground."

Airman Leece's reasons for joining the Joint STARS team were just as personal.

"Since I can't be involved with ground combat directly, I thought being airborne would be interesting mentally. (It would be) challenging and directly assist the guys on the ground who risk their lives daily," she said.

The two are a fraction of the 22 people needed on each mission. The crew includes active-duty, Guard Airmen, and Soldiers.

"We're somewhat of a support system to each other by backing up one another ... helping to pick out targets in each other's area when the other one is busy performing another task," Sergeant Bloomberg said. "It's definitely a team effort up here. We all work together." (Courtesy Air Force Print News)



h other's back

Staff Sgt. Tony Abair, a jet propulsion mechanic with the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, works on a Joint STARS aircraft while at a forward-deployed location.

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. **John P. Snow**

Back to basics

116th ACW
prepares for
inspection



Photos by Tec. Sgt. Tim Neville

Above - Master Sgt. Patty Therrell, left, and Staff Sgt. Christine Gomez of the 116th finance office, help each other while in Mopp four gear during the operational readiness exercise Feb. 12-13. Below - Members of the 116th Air Control Wing watch as yellow smoke is released. The smoke represents a chemical agent in the field.





Got chicken?

Members of the 116th Air Control Wing received boxes of the new breakfast sandwich from Chic-Fil-A at the flight kitchen here Feb. 16. Chic-Fil-A donated about 500 sandwiches to show appreciation for the troops.

Photo by Airman Paul R. Ross

LRS crushes competition at annual awards

by Senior Airman **Tim Beckham**
116th ACW Public Affairs

The 116th Logistics Readiness Squadron crushed the competition for the Air National Guard annual awards recently, taking home seven awards.

"We won seven of the 10 awards we were eligible for," said Lt. Col. John Labuda, 116th LRS commander.

The squadron, which has about 150 people, took home every award from supply to transportation to fuels.

"It is indicative of the people in this squadron and the job they do everyday," said Colonel Labuda.

The 116th LRS main mission is supply and transportation but basically it's here for everyday support.

"We are truly a customer support organization in this wing and area," said Colonel Labuda.

The squadron won three awards in the supply category to include, Senior Airman Joseph Robinson, who won supply Airman of the year, Tech. Sgt. Patricia Sego, supply NCO of the year, and Master Sgt. David Morris, supply senior NCO of the year.

"My motto is, 'I'm working on it,' said Sergeant Sego. "It's a really great honor to



Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

Staff Sgt. Jill Babcock, fuels distribution specialist, determines the solids in fuel using the bottle method Feb. 24. Sergeant Babcock was awarded fuels NCO of the year for the 116th LRS.

be recognized and it gives me a sense of pride in knowing that all the work I accomplish does not go unnoticed."

The LRS also won two awards in the transportation category including, Tech. Sgt. Roland McInturff, who won transportation NCO of the year, and Senior Master Sgt. Eric Fowler, transportation senior NCO of the year.

"I felt humbled, but at the same time proud to be able to represent the Georgia Air National Guard and the 116th ACW," said Sergeant Fowler.

The squadron also won two awards in the fuels category to include, Staff Sgt. Jill Byrne, fuels NCO of the year, and Master Sgt. Michael Rackley, fuels senior NCO of the year.

CWDT classes

Chemical warfare defense training refresher classes will be held in Bldg. 1555 until further notice at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, and at 8 a.m. on Sunday. The classes will be held on the following UTA's: March, May, July, and September. Please send your schedule to Master Sgt. William Pounds or Senior Airman Heather Chapman at least a week in advance. If you need training during the week, please call Master Sgt. William Pounds at 327-5817.

AFA kickoff

The Air Force Assistance Fund "Commitment to Caring" campaign runs Feb. 14 to May 6, asking Airmen to contribute to any of four Air Force-related charities. For more information, visit <http://afassistancefund.org> or the Air Force Personnel Center's voting and fund-raising Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund.

Deployments extended

Air Force officials are designating some positions in U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility as 365-day extended deployments in an effort to provide stability and allow for long-term relationship building with host governments

Worship schedule

(Editor's note: All services are scheduled on UTA Saturday and Sunday unless otherwise indicated.)

Protestant services – 8 a.m., Sunday, Coats Hall auditorium; worship services, 11 a.m., Sunday, base chapel; and gospel services, 11 a.m., Sunday, in the base theater.

Catholic services – Mass, 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday; Reconciliation, 4:30-5:15 p.m. Saturday.

Islamic services – Jumua prayers, 1:30 p.m. Friday, base chapel annex.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 327-6175.

Promotion ceremony reunites JSTARS captain with father

by Tech. Sgt. **Beverly Isik**
116th ACW Public Affairs

Emersonn Cabatu was surprised by two unexpected guests at his promotion ceremony to captain Jan 21.

His father, Army Sgt. 1st Class Arenaldo Cabatu who is currently serving a one-year stint as a combat medic in Baghdad, and his sister, Amabel-Jovan Cabatu, who is in her third year residency at a hospital in New York City, didn't actually make the trip to Robins Air Force Base. Instead, thanks to the personal attention to detail and forward thinking of his flight chief, Capt. Paul Maykish, and the hard work and can-do attitude of Tech. Sgt. Thomas McNeill and Master Sgt. Wainwright Kemp, the young captain's family members were able to share in his promotion via telephone lines installed in the unit's conference room for the ceremony.

Captain Cabatu, an air weapons officer instructor with the 330th Combat Training Squadron, recalled about mid-way into the ceremony when the master of ceremonies Lt. Col. Tim Manning was reciting his accomplishments and thanking those in attendance when he found out about the teleconference.

"At first I thought it was just my sister and I thought that was great. But when I found out my dad was also on the line – it was a pretty emotional moment for me," said the captain who has hardly spoken to his father for the past six or eight months. "I was able to talk to him for about 15 minutes after the ceremony. He's a man of few words, but he seemed really appreciative for the call and said he was proud of what I've accomplished in the Air Force."

Although tracking down the deployed medic was no easy task, Captain Maykish said it was something he knew immediately he had to do when he started planning the promotion ceremony.

"Knowing how much Emersonn looked up to his father and the fact that I just couldn't escape the thought that one of my guys had an active-duty father who was deployed to Baghdad, it just came to me," he said.

It took a few days and a few dozen phone calls, but with persistence and a little luck, Captain Maykish made that one call that finally paid off.

"I contacted the unit where his father was assigned – the 10th Mountain

Division, which is anywhere from 5,000-15,000 human beings," he said. "That was a general starting point. Then it just trickled down. Finally I just lucked out when I called the unit at Baghdad International Airport. The private who answered the phone new Emersonn's father personally."

The Air Force is famous for taking care of its own and for being like a family, but Captain Cabatu said this

he could only describe as "completely amazing."

It's typical for the Air Force to go above and beyond, the captain explained. But to go to such lengths to allow family members to participate in an event like this, "only enhances my love for the Air Force," he said.

"My dad, who was six months too old to join the Air Force when he joined the Army, told me if I wanted a good life, I should join the Air Force," he said.

The gesture made such an impression the captain said he plans on carrying this sentiment over into future leadership roles. "There's such a feeling of togetherness. That's what makes the Air Force so great."



"At first I thought it was just my sister and I thought that was great. But when I found out my dad was also on the line – it was a pretty emotional moment for me."

Capt. Emerson Cabatu

Promotions

Airman

Airman Basic **Justin Walters**
116th Operations Support Squadron
Airman Basic **John Lynch**
116th Maintenance Squadron
Airman Basic **Brandon Bailey**
116th MXS

Airman First Class

Airman Basic **Miguel Alejos**
116th Computer Systems Squadron
Airman **Jeffrey Hieber**
330th Combat Training Squadron

Senior Airman

Airman 1st Class **Michael Weare**
116th MXS
Airman 1st Class **Gregory Carden**
128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron
Airman 1st Class **David Stelick**
16th ACCS
Airman 1st Class **Jeffrey Calvert**
116th MXS
Airman 1st Class **Tammie Gordon**
116th Operations Group
Airman 1st Class **Alexander Bender**
116th MXS
Airman 1st Class **Charles Steinkraus**
116th CSS
Airman 1st Class **Christian Bonetaparrilla**
128th ACCS
Airman 1st Class **Jona French**
116th MXS
Airman 1st Class **Travis Johnson**
116th MXS
Airman 1st Class **Jared Lindley**
116th MXS
Airman 1st Class **Johnathon Masters**
116th MXS
Airman 1st Class **Brenda Tollefson**
12th ACCS
Airman 1st Class **Christopher Zinkle**
116th MXS
Airman 1st Class **Sarah Straughn**
116th MXS
Airman 1st Class **Sarah Jessup**
116th Maintenance Operations Squadron
Airman 1st Class **Lesley Engleton**
116th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Airman 1st Class **Jicela Orr**
116th LRS
Airman 1st Class **Apple Taylor**
116th MXS
Airman 1st Class **Patrese Williams**
116th Air Control Wing

Staff Sergeant

Senior Airman **Andrew Dreslinski**
116th OSS
Senior Airman **Emily Edmunds**
12th ACCS
Senior Airman **Douglas Harris**
12th ACCS

Technical Sergeant

Staff Sgt. **Alan Bardsley**
116th OSS
Staff Sgt. **Shawn Davis**
Detachment 6
Staff Sgt. **Jerry Dilley**
116th Maintenance Group

Master Sergeant

Tech. Sgt. **Geffry Grissom**
116th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Tech. Sgt. **Christopher Jones**
116th LRS
Tech. Sgt. **Roderic Lowe**
116th MXS
Tech. Sgt. **Joseph Powell**
116th MXS

Graduates

Airman Leadership School

Senior Airman **Jennifer Bowen**
12th ACCS
Senior Airman **Timothy Cash**
116th OSS
Senior Airman **Jason Dotson**
116th MXS
Senior Airman **Leola Hartman**
116th MXS

Senior Airman **Carrie Herring**
116th MXS
Senior Airman **Theodor Hofknecht**
116th MXS
Senior Airman **Patricia Parsons**
12th ACCS
Senior Airman **Eric Schultz**
116th MXS
Senior Airman **Aaron Poston**
116th MXS
Senior Airman **Joshua Snyder**
116th AMXS
Senior Airman **Joshua Taylor**
116th MXS
Senior Airman **Manuel Stallings**
116th MXS

NCO Academy

Tech. Sgt. **Ronnie Carter**
128th ACCS
Tech. Sgt. **Joel Daughtry**
128th ACCS
Tech. Sgt. **Jeremy Forbus**
116th MXS
Tech. Sgt. **Timothy Harrell**
116th MXS

Senior NCO Academy

Master Sgt. **Merwick Black**
116th Air Control Wing
Master Sgt. **Anthony Tomczak**
116th MXS

Awards Winners

ACC Navigation Award

Capt. **Claude Archambault**
128th ACCS

Hometown News

The Hometown News Release Program is a great way to tell your friends and family about a recent accomplishment you have been a part of. Whether its a promotion, an award, a PCS or even a deployment, the hometown news program is a great way to have your achievement heard. To do a hometown news release simply complete a DD Form 2266 and send the packaged form to Airman Paul R. Ross at paul.ross@garobi.ang.af.mil. If you have any questions, please call 327-6138.





Photo by Sue Sapp

Star struck

Matthew McConaughey poses for a photo with members of the 116th Air Control Wing. The actor visited Robins Air Force Base to promote his movie and to visit with troops Feb. 23.

2005 UTA Schedule

January 29-30 • February 12-13 • March 12-13 • April 16-17 • May 14-15 • June 11-12 • July 16-17 • August 27-28 • September 17-18 • October 22-23 • November 19-20 • December 10-11